Self-reliance in energy sector

2726. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how far India has moved to the stage of self-reliance in oil and gas with Krishna-Godavari basin oil discovery, and discovery of medium-size oil and gas field in Rajasthan, and both Government and private sector (ONGC and RIL) being actively engaged in exploration activities; and

(b) by when India is expected to become self-reliant in this field of energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Given the increasing demand for crude oil and natural gas with the growing Indian economy and the current level of import dependence for crude oil, it is difficult to envisage self sufficiency in the near future. However, production of crude oil and natural gas from the recent discoveries as well as from the exploration efforts would help to reduce imports.

IOC's pipeline project to Sri Lanka

2727. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IOC propose to lay a pipeline to Sri Lanka for exporting diesel and aviation turbine fuel to the island, as detailed in the Financial Express dated the 20th December, 2002;

(b) the route of the pipeline and its length, both on land and under sea;

(c) how far it would be economically beneficial; and

(d) the details of agreement entered into with the Sri Lanka for the purpose with amount of foreign exchange per annum expected to be earned after completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

ONGC's joint venture for assam fields

2728. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has tied up with Russian Tech., to increase crude production in Assam fields; if so, the details of the action plan;

(b) the expected increase of crude and amount of proposed investment for the purpose; and

(c) the other plans of ONGC to augment crude production in India with the details of investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) To increase crude oil production in the Assam fields, ONGC has envisaged use of Russian technology for the following:—

(i) side tracking of four wells namely, Lakwa # 225, 300, 412 and Galeki # 106;

(ii) consultancy contract on services for detailed studies and evaluating the non-flowing and low flowing wells.

While a contract has been signed with M/s. Zarubezhneft, a national oil company of Russia, in July 2002 for side tracking of wells, the consultancy contract on services for detailed studies and evaluation of the non-flowing and low flowing wells with it, has not been finalized as of date.

The expected gain from each of the four wells planned for side tracking is about 20 tonnes per day (TDP) of oil. The estimated price for the work of side tracking the 4 wells is about Rs. 23.40 cr.